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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,530	06/24/2003	Kimihide Takahashi	Q76183	9526

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EXAMINER	
MISLEH, JUSTIN P	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/601,530	TAKAHASHI, KIMIHIDE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Justin P. Misleh	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 June 2003* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Note: The Examiner for the present Application has changed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 22, 2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference signs mentioned in the description: 16 (page 5, line 12 – not shown in figure 2).

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "106" has been used to designate both the power button in figures 2, 7, and 8 and the recess in figure 6.

The recess is correctly identified as element 106 in both the specification on page 6 and the drawings in figure 6. The power button on the cradle, as shown in figures 2, 7, and 8 has been incorrectly labeled as element 106.

5. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. There are similar discrepancies throughout the specification and drawings. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: inconsistent identification of elements within the drawings.

8. Specifically, the specification on page 5 (line 15), identifies the power button for the digital camera as element 30. This is correctly shown in the drawings, for example, as shown in figure 2. However, the specification further indicates that the power button for the cradle is also element 30 (see page 6, line 4). As indicated above, the power button for the cradle is

incorrectly identified as element 106. Therefore, the power button for the cradle should be identified by unused element number in both the specification and drawings.

9. **There are similar discrepancies throughout the specification and drawings. Appropriate correction is required.**

10. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

12. **Claims 1 – 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

13. In the amendment filed April 24, 2007, Applicant amended every instance of "cradle" in Claims 1 – 12 to recite "removable cradle". In the remarks section of the Amendment, starting on page 7, Applicant argues, "Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 to recite that the cradle is removable, and accordingly, respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 are patentable over Nishimura for this reason." However, Applicant has neglected to specify where in the disclosure there is support for such a feature.

14. For instance, the disclosure, at best, shows in figure 1 where the cradle (100) is always connected to a PC (200) via a cable (210) and optionally connected to a digital camera (10). However, there is no disclosure in the present application where the cradle (100) is able to or intended to be operated as a standalone device. As a result, there is nothing removable about the cradle.

15. Thus, since "removable cradle" is incorporated in the claims, the claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. **Claims 1 – 10, 13, 14, and 16 – 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561 B2).

18. For **Claim 1**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a digital camera system comprising a digital camera (1 – figure 2A) and a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A) on which the digital camera is mounted (see figure 2A), wherein:

the removable cradle (3) comprises:

a movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051);

a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.); and

a signal transmitting device which transmits the command signal generated by the signal generating device to the digital camera (Although the contents of the dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal transmitting device housed within the dock 3 to inform the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraph 0046);

and the digital camera (1) comprises:

a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal receiving device housed within the camera 1 to inform the LCD 2 within the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraphs 0046 and 0031.); and

a mode control device which changes operation modes of the digital camera according to the command signal transmitted from the removable cradle (see paragraphs 0046 and 0031);

said system (figure 2A) further comprising a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, "in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b … [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion" (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the

camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

19. As for **Claim 13**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode).

20. As for **Claim 14**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

21. For **Claim 2**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A) on which the digital camera is mounted (see figure 2A) comprising:

a movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051);

a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the

mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.); and

a signal transmitting device which transmits the command signal generated by the signal generating device to the digital camera (Although the contents of the dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal transmitting device housed within the dock 3 to inform the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraph 0046); and

a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided

with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, "in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b … [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion" (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

22. As for **Claim 3**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) comprises a camera mounting unit (19) on which the digital camera (1) is mounted (see figure 3A).

23. As for **Claim 4**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, a leg portion (9) which supports the camera mounting unit (19),

wherein the camera mounting unit (19) is coupled to the leg portion (9) through a movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051).

24. As for **Claim 5**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) enables the camera mounting unit (19) to move relatively to the leg portion (9), and

a moving style of the camera mount unit (19) includes at least one of tilting, sliding (shown in figures 3A – 3B), rotating, and vertical moving (shown in figures 3A – 3B) with respect to the leg portion (9).

25. As for **Claim 6**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) enables the movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) to move in a predetermined moving range (see figures 3A – 3B).

26. As for **Claim 7**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, a communications interface (7) for connection and communications with external equipment (see paragraph 0050),

wherein the digital camera (1) is connected to communicate with the external equipment through the removable cradle (3) by mounting the digital camera (1) on the removable cradle (3 – see paragraph 0050).

27. As for **Claim 8**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the signal generating device generates a signal for switching functions of the digital camera for the external equipment connected for communications through the removable cradle (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for

instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.).

28. As for **Claim 16**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the functions of the digital camera (1) comprise a camera function and a non-camera function (The Examiner considers the function corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera function and the function corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera function).

29. As for **Claim 17**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera function comprises a PC camera function (PC Button 38) and the non-camera function comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The function corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this function is a PC camera function. The function corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this function is a non-camera function.).

30. For **Claim 9**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a digital camera (1 – figure 2A) capable of being mounted on a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A), the digital camera (1) comprises:

a signal receiving device which receives a command signal generated according to a position of a movable portion of the removable cradle (A triggering mechanism includes elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, and signals both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting,

the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Although the contents of the camera 1 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal receiving device housed within the camera 1 to inform the LCD 2 within the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraphs 0046 and 0031.); and

a mode control device which changes operation modes of the digital camera according to the command signal transmitted from the removable cradle (see paragraphs 0046 and 0031), and

a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, "in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data

transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b ... [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion" (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

31. As for **Claim 10**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes are changed according to the command signal while the digital camera is mounted on the removable cradle and powered up (see paragraph 0039).

32. As for **Claim 18**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode).

33. As for **Claim 19**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a

PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

34. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561 B2) in further view of Nagaoka (US 6,734,915 B2).

35. As for **Claim 15**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode). Gennetten also discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

However, neither Gennetten nor Ohmura specifies that in the storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader and in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera.

On the other hand, Nagaoka also discloses a digital camera system comprising a cradle and digital camera to be mounted on the cradle. Specifically, Nagaoka shows, in figure 1, a

digital camera (14) mountable on the cradle (11), wherein a mode of the digital camera is changed according to is mounting style on the cradle (11). Nagaoka shows, in figure 7, wherein the mode of the digital camera (14) is a changed to a PC camera mode (e.g., when the digital camera is mounted with the imaging lens facing towards the user) or a non-camera storage mode (e.g., when the digital camera is mounted with the imaging lens facing away from the user). Finally Nagaoka shows, in figure 7, and states, in column 5 (line 29) - column 6 (line 20), wherein in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera and in the non-camera storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader.

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included wherein in the storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader and in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera, as taught by Nagaoka, in the digital camera system, taught in-combination by Gennetten in view of Ohmura, for the advantage *of realizing various functions with a digital camera at a practical level* (see Nagaoka; column 2, lines 34 – 37).

Allowable Subject Matter

36. **Claims 12, 20, and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as stated above, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection.

Cited Prior Art

37. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure for the following reasons:

- **US 7,167,207 B2** discloses a cradle apparatus for a camera having a sliding member for engage and disengage the camera with the cradle apparatus.

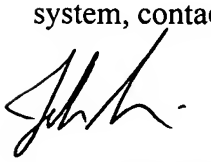
- **US 7,170,557 B2** and **US 5,451,180** each disclose a cradle apparatus for an electronic device, wherein the cradle apparatus is provided with a pivoting/tilting device for changing the pivot/tilt angle of the electronic device when mounted on the cradle apparatus.

Conclusion

38. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571.272.7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Justin Misleh
Examiner, GAU 2622
January 2, 2008